



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in the large pavilion at McDowell Park, located at 15222 York Rd., Charlotte, NC 28278 on June 14, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRC MINUTES  
June 14, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE**

**PRC Present:**

Elaine Powell, Chair  
 Kendel Bryant, Vice Chair  
 Tristan McMannis, Exec. Secretary  
 Doug Burnett  
 Heidi Pruess  
 Brian Cox  
 Sterling Martin, Jr.  
 Tony Arreaza  
 Peter Engels  
 Michael Kirschman, Park and Recreation Deputy Director

**PRC Absent:**

Abe Early  
 Mary Johnson  
 Ed Barnhart  
 Aubin Guinness

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m. by Chair Elaine Powell, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

McDowell Park Staff: Kevin Metcalf, Nature Preserves Operations Manager, welcomed everyone to McDowell Nature Preserve and shared information about the preserve and the recent improvements and repairs that have been accomplished.

Peter Engels: Newly appointed South-3 Park and Recreation Commissioner, Peter Engels, introduced himself to the group.

## **Proclamations, Awards and Recognitions:**

**PRC Reappointments:** Congratulations were in order for the following PRC appointments/reappointments by the BOCC:

- **Mary Johnson:** Appointed to a 1<sup>st</sup> full 3-year term expiring 6/2019
- **Brian Cox:** Appointed to a 1<sup>st</sup> full 3-year term expiring 6/2019
- **Aubin Guinness:** Appointed to a 1<sup>st</sup> full 3-year term expiring 6/2019
- **Peter Engels:** Newly appointed to an unexpired term representing South-3, expiring 6/2017
- **Elaine Powell:** Appointed to a special 3<sup>rd</sup> term, expiring 6/2019
- **Kendel Bryant:** Appointed to a special 3<sup>rd</sup> term, expiring 6/2019
- **Doug Burnett:** Appointed to a special 3<sup>rd</sup> term, expiring 6/2019

**Retirement Recognition:** The retirement of **Brenda Arant**, Administrative Support Assistant, was recognized for her 30 years of service. (Brenda was unavailable to attend the PRC meeting.)

## **Advisory Council Appointments – Reappointments:**

### **a. Aquatics AC:**

**Motion was made** by Commissioner Cox to reappoint **Freddie Brown, Jeff King, Lincoln Baxter and Mimi Goude** to a 1<sup>st</sup> full 3-year term, expiring 6/2019 and to reappoint **Emily Cowles** to a 2<sup>nd</sup> full 3-year term, expiring 6/2019, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

Reappointment consideration for **Ginny Woolard, Diane Dunn and Janet Harrison** was deferred to the August PRC agenda.

### **b. Athletics AC:**

**Motion was made** by Commissioner Pruess to appoint **Alma Hernandez** to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2017 and to reappoint **Tom Deming** to a 2<sup>nd</sup> full 3-year term, expiring 6/2019, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

### **c. Central AC:**

Reappointments for the Central AC were deferred to the August PRC agenda.

### **d. Cooperative Extension AC:**

**Motion was made** by Commissioner Pruess to reappoint **Sandy Rook, Barbara Locklear and Carrie Winter** to a special 3<sup>rd</sup> 3-year term, expiring 6/2019, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

### **e. Greenway AC:**

**Motion was made** by Commissioner Burnett to reappoint **Kevin Walsh** to a 1<sup>st</sup> full 3-year term, expiring 6/2019 and to reappoint **Robert Carter** to a special 3<sup>rd</sup> full 3-year term, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

f. **North AC:**  
**Motion was made** by Commissioner Bryant to reappoint **Anita Brown** to a 1<sup>st</sup> full 3-year term, expiring 6/2019, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

g. **South AC:**  
**Motion was made** by Commissioner Burnett to reappoint **Michael Jones and Hermes Goudes** to a special 3<sup>rd</sup> full 3-year term, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

South AC member **Brian Groves** has moved out of Mecklenburg County, creating a vacancy. Reappointment consideration for **Carolyn Millen** was deferred to the August PRC agenda.

h. **Sr. Citizen AC:**  
**Motion was made** by Commissioner McMannis to appoint **Gale Hobbing** to a 1<sup>st</sup> full 3-year term and to reappoint **Maryann Gilmore** to a 1<sup>st</sup> full 3-year term and to reappoint **Kajal Patel** to a special 3<sup>rd</sup> full 3-year term, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

i. **Stewardship AC:**  
**Motion was made** by Commissioner Powell to reappoint **Russ Keanini** to a 2<sup>nd</sup> full 3-year term, expiring 6/2019 and to reappoint **Andrea Cook and Amber Veverka** to a special 3<sup>rd</sup> full 3-year term, expiring 6/2019, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Directors Report**

**Ramsey Creek Beach Update:** In the absence of Director Garges, Deputy Director Michael Kirschman reported on recent developments at Ramsey Creek Beach. Many complaints have been raised by neighbors along Nantz Road and the surrounding area. In response to these complaints the Department has made or are in the process of making the following changes.

- **Parking – CATS Shuttle Service:** In an effort to control off-site parking in the neighborhoods and nearby businesses and “walk-ins”, the Department is working with CATS to provide off-site parking at the Huntersville ParknGo, which is 3.8 miles from the park. Two buses will run every 15 minutes to shuttle visitors to the park. The shuttle service will be tested over the upcoming weekend. The fee for the CATS Shuttle Service will be \$2.20 per person.
- **Fee Increases:** The Department will also be placing a proposal on the June 21 BOCC agenda to increase the entrance fees at Ramsey Creek Park and to add a per person walk-in fee: The proposal is as follows:

	<b><u>County Residents</u></b>	<b><u>Non-County Residents</u></b>
<b><u>Cars/Per Vehicle</u></b>		
Weekday (Mon - Thur)	\$3 to \$5	\$5 to \$10
Weekend (Fri-Sun & Holiday)	\$3 to \$10	\$5 to \$15

**County Residents**

**Non-County Residents**

**Walk-Up/Per Person**

Adults (14 years and older)	\$5 - new	\$5 - new
Children (6-13 years old)	\$3 - new	\$3 - new
Children (5 years and under)	Free	Free

**CATS Shuttle Service**                      \$2.20/Per Person- New Fee \*\*    \$2.20/Per Person- New Fee \*\*

Deputy Director Kirschman provided information on nearby swimming beach fees in NC and SC State Parks. The proposed fee increases are still below any state parks. Commissioner Bryant shared that she attended the June 9<sup>th</sup> Community meeting along with Commissioners Pruess and Martin. Discussion ensued.

**Motion was made** by Commissioner Bryant to endorse the proposed Ramsey Creek Park fee increases as presented by Deputy Director Michael Kirschman, which was seconded by Commissioner Pruess and approved unanimously.

**\*\* (NOTE:** Since this PRC meeting, the County Manager has directed the shuttle service to be free at this time. The fee increases were approved by the BOCC on June 21, 2016.)

**PRC Chair Report**

**Brooklyn Village/Second Ward Park Advocacy:** There was continued discussion on the Brooklyn Village redevelopment. The PRC continues to advocate for 5-acre park in the development to replace the 5.4-acre Marshall Park. Chair Powell said she has received multiple e-mails in support of a 5-acre public park.

**Budget Public Hearing:** Chair Powell reported that she and several of the Commissioners attended the Budget Public Hearing on June 2, 2016 to advocate for the Department’s budget. A request was made before the BOCC for an additional \$1 million in funding for park operations, staffing and programming. Chair Powell expressed her appreciation for the PRC support and for speaking at the hearing. Deputy Director Kirschman said that even though the \$1 million request was not funded, he was very appreciative of the advocacy and the words spoken before the BOCC by the Park and Recreation Commission.

**PRC Attendance:** Chair Powell reminded the PRC of the BOCC 75% attendance policy for all PRC meetings and assigned council or committee meetings. Every meeting is important.

**Consent Items**

**May 10, 2016 PRC Minutes:** One change in the minutes was requested on page 5, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, Commissioner Bryant. The last sentence of this paragraph states: Parking will be allowed for park patrons in the main parking deck. This sentence should be revised to read: Parking will **not** be allowed for park patrons in the main parking deck.

**Motion was made** by Commissioner Pruess to approve all consent items, including the May 10, 2016 PRC Minutes, with the correction as noted above, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**(NOTE: Re: Recording of June 14, 2016 PRC Meeting:** The recording for this meeting was inadvertently lost.)